

Jefferson Memorial Forest

11311 Mitchell Hill Road
PO Box 467
Fairdale, KY
40118

502/368-5404

www.memorialforest.com

www.metro-parks.org

forest@louisvilleky.gov

parks@louisvilleky.gov

Welcome Center

Monday-Saturday

8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Sunday/Holidays:

10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Welcome Center is your destination for maps, gift items, program reservations, camping reservations, permits and Forest Information.

Directions

From I-65 south, take the Gene Snyder Freeway (I-265) west and exit at New Cut Road. Turn left, go about one mile, and turn right onto Mitchell Hill Road. Follow the signs to the Forest.

Mission Statement

The mission of Louisville Metro Parks is to create a City of Parks and enhance the quality of life for citizens of Louisville Metro by maintaining and acquiring attractive, vibrant parks and offering safe, diverse recreation programs, and protecting these lands and resources for future generations.

Jefferson Memorial Forest Added to Natural Areas Registry

On September 7th, 2011 Don Dott, Director of the State Nature Preserves Commission (KSNPC) presented Metro Parks with a certificate acknowledging placement of 2,472 of acres of the Jefferson Memorial Forest on the Kentucky Registry of Natural Areas. To be included on the registry, properties must either contain habitats for plants or animals that are rare, endangered, or have declining populations or properties must contain outstanding examples of Kentucky ecological communities. Large portions of Jefferson Memorial Forest meet both of these criteria. Ecologists from the Commission were on site in 2009 and 2010 to evaluate the Forest for inclusion into the Registry. Among the acre's identified surveys revealed very well-developed older growth forest in the Headley Hollow area of the Forest and the presence of at least one State-listed endangered plant, narrow-leaved blue curls, within dry, acidic woodlands characterized by a diverse herb layer and chestnut-oak dominated canopies and occurring on southwest facing slopes.

Inclusion of large portions of the Forest in the Natural Areas Registry is largely symbolic as the program itself affords no extra protection for these lands. The program is voluntary on the part of Metro Parks and non-regulatory on the part of the KSNPC. It does, however, raise the profile of Jefferson Memorial Forest as a landscape of state significance that is worth protecting as such in perpetuity. We are especially proud of the designation as a way to honor the commitment of those volunteers who, out of love and appreciation for the natural beauty of the Forest, have given their time to help protect and enhance Jefferson Memorial Forest since its creation as a park and natural area in the mid-1940's. This includes those early volunteers, such as Dr. Fred Pipkin, recently deceased, who worked tirelessly to increase the size of Forest through his work with Wilderness



Volunteer Land Stewards Dan Higgins, Cindy Payne and Brenne Muncy, along with JMF staff with Don Dott, KSNPC Director, and Brent Frazier, KSNPC Land Protection Specialist.

Jefferson County. It also includes those many early trail pioneers who helped establish the Forest as a wonderful place for the public to hike and commune with nature. Finally, more recently, it includes those volunteers who are currently serving the community through the Forest and Natural Areas Division's various volunteer programs including land stewards, volunteer naturalists, trail team members, and forest ambassadors.

On a final note, pursuit of this designation is part of the 2009 Jefferson Memorial Forest Master Plan, and while voluntary, it represents a commitment on the part of Metro Parks to set aside the largest interior portion of the Jefferson Memorial Forest for habitat with minimal intrusion from forms of recreation beyond a limited system of passive hiking trails and a small, designated area of back country camping. We encourage everyone to familiarize themselves with the master plan which is publicly available on our website at memorialforest.com.

Bennett Knox, Park Administrator



Volunteer News and Opportunities

Great Big Thanks

Our sincere appreciation goes to the following groups who have helped move our mission forward, with a special thanks to the dedicated individuals whose focus and attention help make Forest Fest happen every May, and the many single-day individual volunteers who spent time with us at various cleanup events, trail project days and invasive removal efforts. Each and every hour spent with us benefits the entire community.

Volunteer Groups

General Electric, for sharing 27 amazing employees who assisted with invasive plant removal at Caperton Swamp.

Mercy Academy students for class project days in April clearing invasive plants, mulching education areas, planting beds around the Conference Center, removing trash at Waverly Park and cleaning debris from Salt Block Creek.



Marketing Endeavor employees enjoy a day of volunteering while planting grasses at the Welcome Center.

Marketing Endeavors, for spending a recent employee service day mulching the Welcome Center landscaping and planting native flowers.

University of Louisville Medical School, for spending a Saturday morning assisting with invasive plant removal in Caperton Swamp.

Baptist East Hospital Radiology Department, for donating a Saturday with their families to perform a litter patrol at Tom Wallace Lake and the nearby hiking trails.

Western Illinois University STLF Club, for 40 students who spread mulch, removed graffiti and painted at the Welcome Center and Tom Wallace Lake area.

Eagle Scouts

Vernon (VJ) Hudson, Troop 21. VJ organized his troop to build four benches in our educational area and paint picnic tables. His troop donated a total of 165 hours on this project.

Andy White, Troop 1. Andy removed barbed wire and old fencing materials from the Scott's Gap area with the help of his fellow scouts. His troop performed a total of 70 hours of work to complete this project.

Adam Carbone, Troop 212. Adam and his troop donated 122 hours installing a rock headwall for a trail culvert in the Paul Yost section of the Forest.

Kevin Neri, Troop 4. This industrious troop spent 138 hours designing, building and placing fish habitat in Waverly Lake to encourage natural spawning and fry protection.

Wesley Bohn, Troop 40. Wesley and his fellow scouts donated 136 service hours to reroute 225 feet of trail in Waverly Park to higher ground, correcting water erosion issues, as well as invasive removal at the dam and spillway.

Corporate Volunteer Support

Jim Carroll, owner of the Fairdale Dairy Queen for ongoing support of volunteers and all the free combo coupons.

The Trail Store for offering discounts to our volunteers when they show their volunteer ID badges.

Greater Louisville Homes Real Estate Consultants for sponsoring volunteer t-shirts and refreshments for the Clifton Heights Neighborhood Association's park adoption of the Clifton Heights Greenway.

Volunteer of the Month

Thanks to our most recent Volunteers of the Month! Recipients receive a certificate of appreciation, a \$5 Forest gift certificate, and their photo on the Wall of Fame in the Welcome Center.

March – Kyla Elverud

April – John Buchenberger

May – John Buchenberger

June – John Hatton

July – Mark Jamison

August – Chris Knopf

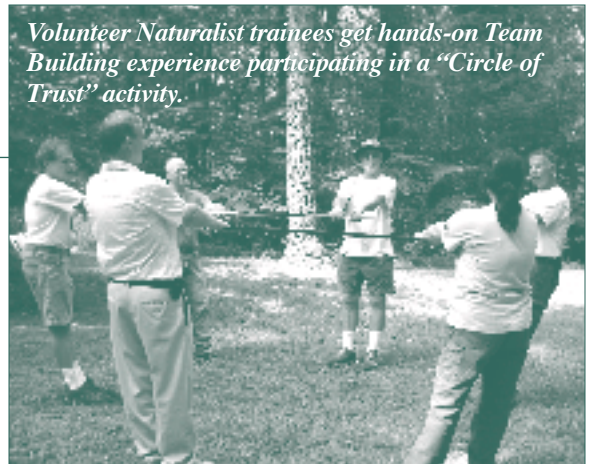
SIGN UP NOW for Volunteer Naturalist Training

Volunteer Naturalists function as volunteer teachers and assistants, working closely with Natural Areas Education staff to support environmental and outdoor recreation education. Leading school field trips, public and private programs, Volunteer Naturalists are a vital part of our Education Department. Sample tasks include leading groups of 15 or less on nature hikes, interpreting information about the Forest and its wildlife, handling small education animals during programs, and leading team-building programs with small groups.

Trainees attend a 15-week training course held on Monday of each week, January through April. Training topics include the Forest ecosystem and its inhabitants, stream and pond ecology, teaching methods and presentation skills, archery, team building and orienteering. Volunteers benefit from hands-on learning activities, reference materials and support from experienced Naturalists and staff.

If you'd like more information about joining this group, please contact the Volunteer Coordinator, Sherry Wright at 502/380-1753 or sherry.wright@louisvilleky.gov.

Volunteer Naturalist trainees get hands-on Team Building experience participating in a "Circle of Trust" activity.





Volunteer News

Volunteer Naturalists Develop and Lead Their Own Program!

Working under the premise that individuals new to the Forest and/or hiking would be more likely to visit if they had an experienced volunteer along, two innovative Volunteer Naturalists created our free monthly guided hike program. Pam Henninger and Bill Landrum dedicated themselves to a schedule of hikes and developed learning topics to discuss along the way. They have taken

public participants and other volunteers on hikes through all sections of the Forest, introducing trees, insects and Native American lore (just to name a few) along the way. Their great idea took root and has developed quite a following, with growing numbers of participation each month. Thanks, Pam and Bill, for all your help, support and enthusiasm. We love you guys!

The hikes are held the last Saturday of each month, and are scheduled through the end of the year. For a schedule or more information, please call our Welcome Center at 502/368-5404.

Top left: Bill Landrum

Top right: Pam Henninger

Bottom: Forest guests enjoy free monthly hikes led by Volunteer Naturalists.



"The Box Turtle"



I am a turtle called the Eastern Box
And my shell can protect me from a
hungry fox.

A carapace is the name of my home
dome
I carry it with me wherever I roam.

My bottom is a plastron equipped with
a hinge
So a skunk or a bear won't make me
cringe.

I can eat many things found on the
forest floor
That is why they call me an omnivore.

A slug or a worm, a mushroom or berry
I'll eat
Each one of them as a delicate treat.

I can live off this land up to a hundred
years
Even though I crawl stuck in first gear.

My biggest fear comes if I'm crossing a
road
Where a speeding car can crush my
abode.

In cold winters I'm safe and not to be
found
'Cause I dig myself deep under the
ground.

Sometimes you can tell if I'm a girl or a
feller
The trick is the eyes you can tell by their
color.

If reddish to pink I could be a fellow
While ladies are often brownish-orange
to yellow.

I hope you have learned about some of
my features
So enjoy Memorial Forest with all of its
creatures.

Woody Miller



Land Management

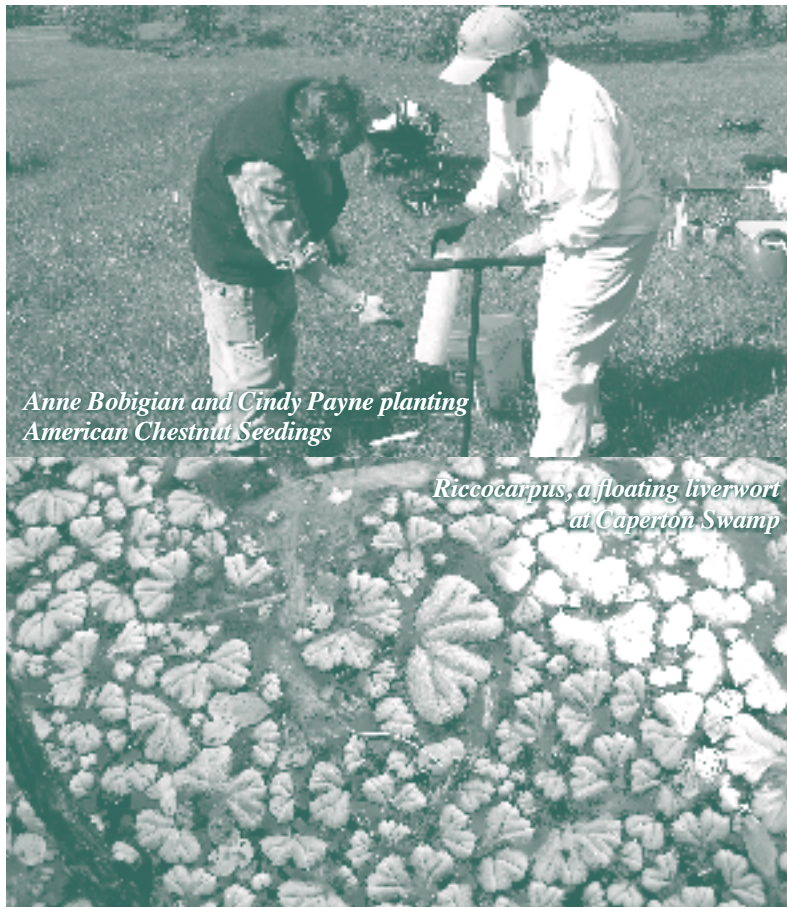
Caperton Swamp Restoration Update

Significant progress has been made toward Caperton Swamp restoration in spite of cancellation of two public work days due to spring flooding. One of the positive sides to the recent flooding from the Ohio River is that Shrub Honeysuckle does not tolerate flooding for extended periods. Being inundated for significant periods annually results in a woodland in which Shrub Honeysuckle and many other invasive plants are absent. This is really apparent if you visit the lower wet woodland to the east of the pond at Caperton.

On three special work days at Caperton Swamp, volunteers from U of L-S.O.U.L., General Electric, and U of L Medical School helped remove a very dense two acre stand of Shrub Honeysuckle. On our first work day, we loaded up approximately 20 yards of debris consisting of old tires, barrels, concrete blocks, cable, and of course litter. Thanks to Waste Management for supplying the dumpsters for the removal. Thanks also to the undying efforts of our volunteer Land Stewards who have been present at all public work days plus several regularly scheduled work days removing Shrub Honeysuckle at Caperton. As we gain control of the invasive plant problem, our plan is to plant the woodlands with numerous native trees and shrubs. Re-planting is an instrumental part of the restoration process, helping to prevent re-invasion by non-native plants. Replanting will also increase the diversity within the woodland areas, help stabilize soils, and benefit wildlife.

In my last newsletter article, I spoke of the richness in species diversity at Caperton Swamp. Earlier this year I began noticing a small plant floating on the surface of the pond. Initially I assumed it to be a species

of Duckweed (Lemna). Over the spring months it became more numerous and began looking different than typical Duckweed, with individual plants growing to about one-half inch wide and becoming obviously lobed, thickened and fleshy. In April the plant nearly covered the entire pond surface. Deborah White, Botanist from the Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission, was able to identify the plant as *Ricciocarpus*,



Anne Bobigian and Cindy Payne planting American Chestnut Seedlings

Ricciocarpus, a floating liverwort at Caperton Swamp

a native floating liverwort. She was quite surprised to find it in this part of the state! Typically it is found in western Kentucky. Liverworts are non-vascular plants belonging to the taxonomic division Bryophyta. Since the discovery of this floating liverwort at Caperton, Ohio River flooding has washed most of it out. I am anxious to see if it will re-colonize the pond again next year. *Ricciocarpus* has a very interesting means of reproducing. The individual plants reproduce rapidly by a really cool symmetrical division.

Imagine a hand fan opened up to a 90 degree angle. Growth and differentiation of this plant opens the fan up to a full 180 degrees and a division occurs right down the middle to make two 90 degree plant bodies, and the process is repeated again and again to fill the available space. How cool is that?

American Chestnut Tree Plantings

On another note, the Land Stewards have installed what is hoped will one day become a grove of American Chestnut trees at Jefferson Memorial Forest. Working with Anne Bobigian from the American Chestnut Foundation, a planting of 22 seedling American Chestnut trees bred with various levels of resistance for chestnut blight were installed in early May. Blight resistance is incorporated into the seedlings from an initial cross between an American Chestnut and Chinese Chestnut tree. Chinese Chestnut trees are naturally resistant to the blight. Following the first generation cross, subsequent back crosses with pure American Chestnut trees are made until the growth form is indistinguishable from the pure American Chestnut tree, but having the gene(s) for blight resistance from

the Chinese tree. We hope that one day our grove will produce a crop of nuts and provide support for the efforts to reestablish the American Chestnut in this region's forests. Protection measures have been made to prevent deer damage to the seedlings as they grow. A six foot tall electric fence has been installed around the entire grove. According to Anne, deer can be a big problem for the seedlings until the trees grow branches above the level of browsing. Regular watering, weeding, and mowing are required in the grove during the establishment phase.



Land Management



The Clifton Heights Neighborhood Association join Natural Areas Division staff and volunteers on a final cleanup day at Clifton Heights Greenway

Clifton Heights Greenway Update

On still another note, a huge step was made this summer toward restoring Clifton Heights Greenway as two seasonal employees, Kristi Meier and Wesley Staats, cleared Wintercreeper and other invasive plants in the five acre neighborhood woodland. Their work has been made possible by \$5,000 in funding from District 9 Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh. Both Kristi and Wesley are University of Kentucky students wishing to increase their level of knowledge and experience in land management. Kristi is a senior in Natural Resource Conservation Management and plans to work in a similar capacity or perhaps soil science when she graduates. Wesley will be a junior in Forestry this year and plans to incorporate his training in a field related to animals

when he graduates. The woodland was hugely overgrown with invasive plants including Wintercreeper, Bush Honeysuckle, Multiflora Rose, and Japanese Knotweed until Kristi and Wes were turned loose on it, and what a difference they made! Plans have been to replant the woodland property with native trees and shrubs and to incorporate a neighborhood walking path that will eventually become a spur trail from the Louisville Loop via a connection to Mellwood Avenue. The completion of this summer project took place on September 3rd as volunteers from the Clifton Heights Neighborhood Association loaded up and hauled out about 20 cubic yards of rubbish from the woodlands plus about 40 old tires! If you would like to help with any of these projects, please contact our volunteer Coordinator, Sherry Wright at 380-1753 or sherry.wright@louisvilleky.gov.

Bryan Lewis, Naturalist



Kristi Meier and Wesley Staats in a huge patch of invasive Japanese Knotweed at Clifton Heights Greenway

Jefferson Memorial Forest Receives LG&E Grant

Metro Parks is happy to announce that LG&E has awarded Jefferson Memorial Forest a \$5,000 matching Plant for the Planet grant which will fund tree planting at the Tom Wallace Recreation Area and the Horine Conference Center. These grants are intended to promote environmental sustainability through tree planting. LG&E's efforts to promote the planting of appropriate tree species (i.e. the right tree, the right place) will avoid possible interference with overhead power lines.

Recent visitors to the Forest may notice ongoing efforts by staff and volunteers to remove invasive plants in Tom Wallace and to create a more aesthetically pleasing entrance by better defining the width of vegetation along the park entry road. Trees being funded under this grant will be used to restore these areas. Twenty larger caliper-sized trees will also be used to supplement declining trees within the grove adjacent to the Horine Conference Center. Forest staff are working to leverage this grant into further funding to support continued improvement in the landscaping in the vicinity of Tom Wallace Lake. For further information, please contact Bryan Lewis, Landscaping Supervisor, at 361-2918 or bryan.lewis@louisvilleky.gov.

Making our World Greener

Trees Funded by



ELIMINATE WASTE AND GET THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!

Do your part to save trees and keep our costs down, by emailing forest@louisvilleky.gov with the request "subscribe to newsletter." Include your name and the mailing address where you received this issue, and you will then only receive electronic copies of future newsletters.



Public Program Calendar: October through December

The Forest offers programs for all ages. For more information visit our website at memorialforest.com or call the Welcome Center at 502/368-5404. Our staff will be happy to help make reservations, give directions to the program location, or provide a complete schedule of programs throughout the year. For all programs, please wear close-toed walking shoes and dress for the weather.

Reservations are required in advance. The Forest reserves the right to cancel, change or postpone program dates and venues, due to insufficient registration, conditions or weather. In such cases rain checks will be provided.

OUTDOOR SKILLS

Program meets in the Horine Reservation
ORIENTEERING

Saturday, October 1, 9 a.m. -Noon

Map and landscape reading are skills every outdoors person needs to possess. This program equips participants with the skills necessary to read and interpret topographic maps and locate destinations. This in-field set of exercises is truly a hands-on learning experience. Ages 12 and up. Fee: \$10/person

ARCHERY

Saturday, November 5, 9 a.m. to Noon

Archery is a great activity that can be shared by the entire family. NASP Certified Staff will introduce you to Olympic-style archery. Learn how to shoot a bow and arrow within minutes. Bow safety is stressed. This program is for all physical ability levels. All equipment is provided. Children 8 and over are welcome and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Fee: \$10/person

SASSAFRAS TREE HOUSE

This program is for parents and children ages 3-5. It provides experiences in nature for parents and little ones to share. Program meets in the Horine Reservation. Fee: \$10 per child

FROM ACORNS ANIMALS GROW

Saturday, October 15, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

The leaves are changing color and squirrels and other animals are storing food for the winter. We'll go in search of this food and look for signs where they have been eating.

FLY BY BIRDIE

**Saturday, November 19,
9:30 to 11:30 a.m.**

Birds are moving in and some are flying by. Come see the birds that visit the bird feeders and then make your own bird feeder.

The Mayor's Healthy Hometown **hike**

**Saturday, October 15, 2011
10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Family-Friendly Activities:

Guided Hikes
Pumpkin Decorating
Nature Fun

Canoe/Kayak Demos
Alpine Tower Climbs
Hayrides

Come hungry! Shack in the Back BBQ will have breakfast & lunch items for sale!

**Jefferson Memorial Forest
Horine Reservation
12304 Holsclaw Hill Road**

Look for Forest signs starting at exit 6 on I-265!

502/368-5404 • www.memorialforest.com



mayor's Healthy Hometown



Calendar

HOWL AT THE MOON

Friday, October 14, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Come out to the Forest for an evening romp through the woods with your dog! Forest staff lead owners and their pooches on a hike through the woods. Keep in mind that your dog will be around other dogs and people. Non-retractable leashes and good behavior are required. As a courtesy to other dogs, please make sure your pet is up to date on their vaccinations. Meets in the Horine Reservation. Fee: \$6/dog

PUBLIC ALPINE TOWER CLIMB

Saturday, October 29, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Take the challenge on the 52-foot climbing tower. Learn basic climbing and belaying techniques. This program is for ages 10 and up. A parent or guardian must accompany all participants under the age of 18. Please wear: tennis shoes, long pants or shorts with an inseam at least 5 inches in length for your own comfort in the harness. Sign up early as space is limited to 18 participants. Meets in the Horine Reservation. Fee: \$10 per person

WELCOME CENTER HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, December 3

DECORATING WITH NATURAL MATERIALS

Saturday, December 10,
10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Bring the beauty of nature indoors for the holiday season. Gather your own materials while on a guided nature walk with naturalist Christa Weidner. Then enjoy hot cider or chocolate in front of a cozy fire, while learning techniques to create your own holiday decorations using natural materials. Fee: \$10 per person; all materials are included.

I answer a lot of questions at the information desk at Olympic National Park, but one visitor stumped me.

His question: "Do you have any trails that just go down hill?"

Mike Perzel, sent in to Reader's Digest

The Vision and Legacy of Dr. Fred Pipkin: The Expansion of Jefferson Memorial Forest

The following is written by Kenny Karem, long-time Forest volunteer, and is a tribute to his great friend, Dr. Fred Pipkin, who passed away on April 3rd, 2011 and is one of the key individuals in the history of the Forest. This also represents a general recollection of land acquisition efforts at the Forest in the 1970s of which many new visitors to the Forest may be unaware. This was originally printed in the Courier-Journal and has been abridged for space considerations.

In the early 1970s while exploring alone numerous isolated, unconnected tracts of land in the approximately 1,600-acre Jefferson County Memorial Forest, Dr. Fred Pipkin of Louisville conceived a vision of buying tracts of private land and joining together those scattered parcels to existing forestland. Created by the city government in 1945 to honor WWII veterans, the forest was known for its fishing lake and picnic shelter, and few people ventured into the isolated parts of the forest.

But Dr. Pipkin dreamed of a contiguous green preserve of forested hills and valleys, protected for and utilized by future generations, a quiet wilderness retreat from the surrounding metropolitan population and located only about 30 minutes from downtown Louisville.

Urban sprawl was consuming green spaces rapidly. Equipped with topographical maps and a compass, Dr. Pipkin began leading hikes there to introduce people to the wonders of the forest and gather support for the forest expansion. As a popular leader of outings for the Sierra Club Cumberland Chapter of Kentucky, he was well known for introducing people through backpacking to wonderful preserved natural areas.

In 1974, Dr. Pipkin formed Wilderness Jefferson County (WJC), a coalition of local environmental groups, and then presented a plan for forest expansion to MetroParks which enthusiastically endorsed it. Over the next 20 years, MetroParks staff, working in conjunction with WJC, created a list of parcels to buy, surveyed the land, raised funds from sources including federal, state, and local grants, county government and

local fundraising events. Key private parcels that adjoined isolated forest tracts were purchased, particularly in the 1980s. The Audubon Society declared it a wildlife refuge sanctuary. Then Dr. Pipkin planned, laid out and built with the help of volunteers the 6.3 mile Siltstone Trail, a mostly ridge top trail that traversed the new expansion. Whereas beforehand, there were few volunteers involved with the forest, Dr. Pipkin inspired a group of many volunteers, too many to list here, who helped build trails.

With the help of local government officials such as former Jefferson County Judges Mitch McConnell and Dave Armstrong and former Mayor Jerry Abramson, the forest continued to expand.



Through many hikes that we shared while hiking and exploring extraordinarily beautiful areas of Kentucky and other states, I learned some lifelong lessons from Dr. Pipkin that remain in my brain: in wilderness you can renew yourself, you can experience a unique joy and sense of being while there, you can create a sense of camaraderie with others that can only be shared in the natural wonders and it is critical to protect and preserve as many wild places as possible.

So it is easy for me to say that Dr. Pipkin was a community treasure, a rare visionary whose dream brought together many people in the efforts to preserve the forest, an outdoor leader whose philosophy of appreciation of wilderness influenced many hikers, a skilled pediatrician earned the gratitude of parents and admiration of many kids and a dedicated visionary whose legacy is the vast preserved wilderness of Jefferson Memorial Forest.

I hope that some day when you are hiking around the forest, particularly on the Siltstone Trail, you will gaze across the many steep hills of the forest that seem to stretch on endlessly, be immersed in the sights and sounds of the wilderness, enjoy the quiet moments of solitude and the breezes of the ridge top trail and smile in appreciation and enjoyment of the legacy of Dr. Pipkin.

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web • www.memorialforest.com

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Louisville, KY
Permit #1151



Greg Fischer, Mayor
Louisville Metro Council

ZOMBIE HIKE

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST
OCTOBER 22, 2011
7 P.M. TIL 11 P.M.
PARKING \$5
CALLING ALL ZOMBIES...
The dead have risen to hike the trails.
Come join us for a camp fire, a hike,
and a showing of *The Night Of The Living Dead*.
Costume contest.
Call for details 502-368-5404

JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST

Metro Parks
www.metro-parks.org

Forest/Parks Natural Areas Staff

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- Vicent
Infrastructure Manager
- Lonnie Swan
Public Education Manager
- Urban Lewis
Land Manager
- Sherry Wright
Volunteer Coordinator
- Larry Hilton
Naturalists/Trails Supervisor
- Claire Tate
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- Kathryn Lynn
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Maintenance Supervisor
- Christa Weidner
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